

Reply to Office Action dated January 20, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 11-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claims 3-4 and 8-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Claims 8-10 have been canceled to be pursued in a Continuation application. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 2 and 11-18 are allowed, and that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 and intervening claim 3 have been added to claim 1, and thus claim 1 along with claims 5-7, which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,296,945 to Nishikawa et al. (hereinafter "Nishikawa"). The rejection is moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

Serial No. **09/982,258**

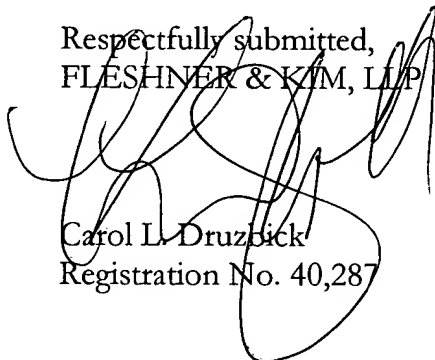
Docket No. **LGE-0016**

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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